



DAVID E. RYU
COUNCILMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT

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April 10, 2019

Council President Herb Wesson
Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Developer Contribution Restrictions (CF 19-0046)

Council President Wesson,

We have a number of challenges as City leaders: Homelessness, a growing housing crisis, planning reform, and so much else. These are big issues that require a strong consensus and community buy-in to be properly met. However, before we can build the Los Angeles of tomorrow, we must rebuild the foundation on which we stand.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "A House divided against itself cannot stand." I would add that a House built on a weak foundation can't either. In any democracy, trust is that foundation. And in Los Angeles, our democracy is on life support. On average, 3 out of 4 eligible Los Angeles voters skip their local elections - a fact that undermines the great work being done in City Hall.

We know that this is not for lack of interest. Every day, we see in our districts the incredible passion and service of our fellow Angelenos. We meet the countless individuals who build up their communities and support their neighbors, not for fame or praise, but because they love their neighborhood. Passion is in no short supply in the City of Angels, but trust is.

Before the committee today is a legislative motion and an Ethics Commission report that provide us options on a way forward. They target the very issues that have eroded the public trust for years, and can help us rebuild that trust which is so essential to our City's democracy. I want to thank my colleagues and the Ethics Commission for taking bold steps toward repairing our campaign finance laws.

I encourage the committee to move forward both the legislative motion authored by me and my colleagues as well as the Ethics Commission report with the



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instruction that the City Attorney be requested to provide guidance on which options will be likeliest to withstand legal challenge and to work with the Department of City Planning and the Ethics Department on how these restrictions can be effectively implemented and enforced.

By moving on these reforms and taking this step to rebuild trust in City government, we allow ourselves the ability to make lasting, positive change for the City of Los Angeles, with greater transparency and confidence in the fairness of our decisions from our City's residents.

Sincerely,

David E. Ryu
Councilmember, District Four